



May 7, 2014

Ms. Mahua Mazumdar  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Admin.  
Office of Acquisition Services, PHA-30  
1200 New Jersey Avenue , SE, E22-230  
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. Sam Hall  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Admin.  
Office of Pipeline Safety, PHA-20  
2180 Adventure Lane  
Maidens, VA 23102

Dear Ms. Mazumdar and Mr. Hall,

On behalf of the BlueGreen Alliance Foundation, I'm pleased to submit a progress report for the \$50,000 technical assistance grant awarded September 25, 2013 (agreement number DTPH56-13-G-PHPT-01).

The primary goal of this project is to educate labor and community partner organizations in the Twin Cities metropolitan area of Minnesota regarding the state of repair of the natural gas distribution system and to engage them in a collaborative effort to improve the identification and prevention of hazardous conditions. The performance measures specified for the progress report are detailed below.

Item #1 – actual accomplishments versus stated objectives. Since October, we have engaged the following activities (in italics) based upon the parameters established in this grant:

- Research and production of a set of pipeline safety backgrounders (2) and fact sheets (2) tailored for labor and community/environmental audiences and focusing on hazard awareness, hazard identification and what workers and communities can do to help prevent natural gas distribution pipeline incidents – and to report/respond to incidents when they occur.
- *A background presentation and fact sheet/brochure on the impacts of distribution pipeline incidents, and mechanisms to strengthen the integrity of the distribution system was developed and distributed to national and Minnesota-based labor, environmental, community and industry stakeholders at a series of roundtable discussions initiating in October 2013, to include but not limited to presentations at the Inter Union Gas Conference, the American Iron and Steel Institute, and the Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference.*



*Representing more than 2,000 attendees, these venues featured participants directly representing Minnesota and Minneapolis-based employers, workers, and community activists.*

- Planning and hosting of two labor-community briefings featuring technical experts on pipeline safety and the regulatory infrastructure process, frontline gas pipeline workers, and community leaders
- *Outreach to Minneapolis-based frontline worker and activists roundtable was conducted from December-March 2013, culminating in a stakeholder briefing outlining local natural gas distribution system conditions and incidents, and discussion of a draft response strategy. Outreach and roundtable participation featured representatives and technical experts from the following groups:*
  - *Minnesota Pipe Trades Association*
  - *Sheet Metal Workers International Union Local 10*
  - *Gas Workers Local 340*
  - *Sierra Club – NorthStar Chapter*
  - *Minnesota Conservation Federation*
- Production of a final project report describing the effort and including a shared set of community-labor-business recommendations to be considered by – and form the basis of dialogue with key decision makers.
- *The final report, synthesizing the research, assessment of condition, and recommended actions, will draw heavily from the ongoing stakeholder dialogue and is expected to be completed and distributed by the end of the grant period.*
- Development and execution of a dissemination strategy for educational work products, including fact sheets, backgrounders, and the report, utilizing the communication platforms of BGAF partners.
- *Materials developed to date have been disseminated to partner groups via in-person-presentations, websites/blogs and email. These efforts will continue, incorporating newer materials as they are developed, through the duration of the grant period.*
- Design and implementation of a media outreach strategy, depending on the outcomes and views of partners, including the use of the communications platforms of BGAF partners (newsletters, web sites) as well as social media
- *General messaging has been largely internal-focused (among BGA and partner organization audiences) during this phase of the grant period. A broader media campaign will be*



*developed and implemented upon the completion of stakeholder engagement and development of a final report/recommendations.*

Items #2 and #3, regarding cost per unit of output and non-attainment of objectives, do not appear to be applicable for this progress update.

Also, attached with this submittal is Form SF425 – Federal Financial Report.

If you have questions regarding our work to date, please don't hesitate to contact me at (202) 706-6908 or [rmcculloch@bluegreenalliance.org](mailto:rmcculloch@bluegreenalliance.org).

Thank you again for enabling the BlueGreen Alliance Foundation to help educate our partners and the public about the natural gas distribution pipeline system in the Twin Cities area. We look forward to sharing our progress at the conclusion of the grant period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob McCulloch".

Rob McCulloch  
Director, Infrastructure Programs